

HERE'S THE FIRST WILSON-ROOSEVELT DISCUSSION— RECORD TELLS WHY HE'S FOR T. R.

Editor's Note.—This is the first of a series of articles written exclusively for this newspaper by George L. Record of New Jersey. For many years Record has led the reform movement in his state as a Republican. He helped to organize the Roosevelt progressive party and is one of the ablest leaders. He believes that the cause of progressivism will best be served by the election of Roosevelt, and in this articles and the ones to follow he gives his reasons.

By George L. Record.

While the party platforms this year cover many subjects, only the tariff, the trusts and the new program of social justice contained in the platform of the progressive party will receive wide attention.

The Payne-Aldrich tariff bill is an expression of the attitude of the Republican party on the tariff under its present leadership. Public opinion is so overwhelming against the Republican position that it is useless to take time and space to argue against it.

The Democratic platform declares for a tariff for revenue only, and holds that protection is unconstitutional. Gov. Wilson and the party leaders leave the real position of the party in doubt.

Protection is the policy of keeping out of this country competing foreign goods. Free trade is the policy of permitting the free entry of such goods.

If protection is a bad thing, it is only because it obstructs trade, and the Democratic party ought to declare that its object is to abolish protection. Instead of this Gov. Wilson denounces the protection in one breath, and then hastens to reassure the public that he does not mean free trade, and that free trade is impossible under our system of raising national revenues.

This is the vital defect of the Democratic tariff position, and has been for 25 years. Nothing can be hoped for from a party whose leaders are either so timid or so confused in thought as to assume this absurd position. When Gov. Wilson and the Democratic leaders protest that they do not mean free trade, it is an admission that the protective idea, reasonably applied, is a good thing.

But even if the Democratic party wins, its representatives in congress and in the White House will not be able to agree upon the provisions of a tariff bill. This is due in part to this confusion of thought or cowardice and partly to the fact that the big trusts which benefit by our present extortionate tariff, by paying money directly or indirectly to the Democratic bosses, have been and will be able to place in congress enough Democrats who will



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